

The David Trimmer Jr. House
Lebanon Township, above Califon
Hunterdon County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-650

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10- CALIF. V.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The William Trimmer House
Lebanon Township*, above Califon
Hunterdon County, New Jersey

Owner: North Jersey Quarry Company, Morristown, N. J.
(Mr. Samuel Hoover, occupant)

Date of Erection: About 1808, with addition about 1815

Architect: Unknown

Builder: William Trimmer (born 1787)

Present Condition: Original

Number of Stories: Two and one-half in larger unit and
one and one-half and cellar in lesser unit

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - stone masonry, stucco finished

Interior walls - stone party-wall and frame
partitions

Chimneys - stone, built into inside of center
of gable end walls; brick above roof line

Roof - gable, slate covered

Historical Data:

The identification of this house by discovery of the name of its original owner has been possible by search of title through successive owners from the present back to a date contemporary with its erection and is reported as follows:

- * The house stands between the Valley Road (from High Bridge to Long Valley) on the northwest and the South Branch of Raritan River in the southeast, in a hamlet formerly known as Lower Valley, just above the northern line of the Borough of Califon.

David Trimmer Sr. of Lower Valley, Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County(a), in his will dated 7 March 1823 and proved 16 March 1824, devised to his wife Margaret one-third of his lands and of his house during her widowhood, to his son Leonard the 74.61 acre farm on which the latter then lived, to son David the 53.23 acre farm "on which he now lives" and a 19.4 acre woodlot on the southwest bank of the south branch of Raritan River, to son William the 74.26 acre farm on which the latter then lived, to son Jacob "the house and premises whereon I now dwell", containing 89.5 acres (not the house here surveyed), to sons John and George the 100 acre farm in Tewksbury Township on which they live, to daughter Elizabeth wife of George Flomerfelt 250.5 acres in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, and to daughter Mary wife of John Gray, \$400.

The first three farms are found to have been subdivisions of that 332 acre tract in Lower Valley extending eastward from the top of Schooley's Mountain across the road and the south branch of Raritan River to Fox Hill, being partly in Lebanon Township and partly in Tewksbury, a tract which the testator David Trimmer had bought for \$3100 from his brother John Trimmer by deed of 2 March 1802, both parties being then of Long Valley, Washington Township, Morris County. David Trimmer at the time of his death in 1824 also owned the 89 acre farm which extended that tract southward to the road from Lower Valley to Califon.

(a) David Trimmer, b. 1759 (son of Matthias Trimmer of Long Valley, and grandson of Johannes Trimmer of Readington who came from Germany via Phila. 1738) d. 1st March 1824 aged 65 yrs., per gravestone in Lower Valley Presb. cem., Lebanon Twp., Hunterdon Co. By his wife Margaret, dau. of Grederick Pickel of Fairmount, Tewksbury Twp., who d. 25 Dec. 1827 aged 69, David Trimmer had issue: Elizabeth b. June 10, 1779, mar. George Flomervelt; John D. b. 24 Feb. 1781, rem. to Ill.; Leonard b. 6 Oct. 1782, rem. West; David b. 20 Sept. 1785, William b. 14 Aug. 1787; George b. 21 Dec. 1789; Mary b. 24 Aug. 1791, mar. John Gray; Frederick b. 17 Dec. 1794, d. y.; Matthias b. 24 Feb. 1797, d. y.; Nicholas b. 8 Feb. 1801, d. 22 Nov. 1814; Jacob D. b. 12 Aug. 1802). T. F. Chambers, The Early Germans of New Jersey, 1895, pp. 151 and 535, etc.)

William Trimmer(b), one of the sons of David Trimmer Sr. abovenamed and devisee of the 74.26 acre farm on which he was living in 1823, was evidently the builder of the house thereon, here surveyed. His part of his father's large tract was bounded west by the highroad leading up the valley, north by the parts devised to his brothers David and Leonard, and it extended eastward across the south branch of Raritan River, and south by the farm devised to his brother Jacob.

This William Trimmer farm evidently was inherited by his only child, Mary A., wife of Jacob A. Weise(c), for by a deed of 12 January 1901, three of her children, Elizabeth Gray of Washington Township, Morris County, David N. Weise and wife of same place, Ann S. Sharpe and husband, conveyed their three-fifths interest in the farm (then of 127 acres) to the other two, John and Silas N. Weise of Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, reciting that it was the same whereof their mother, Mary Ann Weise, owned at the time of her death intestate, and that their father, Jacob A. Weise was also deceased intestate.

The two brothers who thus acquired full possession of the farm conveyed a one-third interest to their sister Ann's husband, Whitfield H. Sharp of Mt. Olive Township, Morris County, by deed of 6 May 1901. All four parties conveyed it, with other lands of their father, to the Califen Limestone Company of Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, for \$5000 by deed of 4 February 1904. This corporation (of which said W. H. Sharp was president) sold some 72 acres of the farm to the Bound Brook Crushed Stone Company by deed of 5 January 1915, this tract extending eastward from

(b) William Trimmer, b. 14 Aug. 1787, son of David Trimmer Sr., mar. Elisabeth Roelofson, dau. of Isaac, (she mar. 2nd. David Neighbor), and had one child, Mary A. Trimmer who mar. Jacob A. Weise, son of Andrew Weise. (T.F. Chambers cited above, p. 537).

(c) Jacob A. Weise, b. 8 May 1812, son of Andrew and Maria (Hager) Weise, mar. Mary A. Trimmer, dau. of William, and had issue viz. Elisabeth mar. 1st Saml. Welsh and 2d. Rance H. Gray, Ann mar. Whitfield H. Sharp, John mar. Eliza Willet, David m. Amanda Hill, and Silas N. mar. Susan Neighbor. (T.F. Chambers cited above, pp. 557-558). The map of Lebanon Twp., publ. in the Atlas of Hunterdon Co. 1873, shows the house here surveyed labelled "J.A.Wise" between the road and river, above Lower Valley village.

the road and across Raritan River to the Central Railroad of New Jersey. This grantee sold the same property to the North Jersey Quarry Company by deed of 24 February 1931, and they remain owners at the date of our survey of the house thereon in March 1940. Mr. Samuel Hoover resided there as tenant at that time and has since died elsewhere July 1st.

Reference:

Report on search of title in land and probate records of Hunterdon County by James Hanlon, H.A.B.S. abstractor, received 6 December 1940

Louis D. Cook

Supervising Historian